Exhibit A

45PHTERC UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 1 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK -----x Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001 03 MD 1570 (RCC) New York, N.Y. May 25, 2004 2:20 p.m. Before: HON. RICHARD CONWAY CASEY District Judge SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

(212) 805-0300

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45PHTERC today. That is why I rose to speak to the court and represent on the record that for good or bad, well or ill, Mr. Ambush 2 3 represented to me, to a Mr. Richard Haley, to a Mr. Jack Corr on a call Friday at 4:00 that he did not know about this 5 hearing. 6 We instructed him to get here. He indicated he could 7 He would be in Canada. We indicated to him that he 8 should do whatever necessary to have representation, that we 9 could not represent him. 10 I represent again today only to the court that 11 message. That is all I said and that is all I am saying. 12 THE COURT: Excuse me just one minute, sir. 13 Mr. Brantley, did Mr. Ambush in any way communicate 14 with the court that he would not be here today either by 15 telephone call, letter, fax, e-mail, any form of communication? 16 THE DEPUTY CLERK: No, your Honor. 17 THE COURT: We received nothing. All right. 18 Thank you, Mr. Mellon --19 MR. MELLON: Thank you. 20 THE COURT: -- for sending us the message. 21 Is there anyone else that wishes to be heard on this 22 question? 23 The next item on my list is perhaps not on yours, but 24 I have received a letter, I believe from Baker Botts, 25 concerning conduct of lawyers. Little did I know how SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C. (212) 805-0300

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appropriate the subject would be at this point in my personal agenda for this meeting.

I have reviewed very carefully the letters from Baker Botts, Mr. Motley. Let me just set out my personal feelings and the position of the court.

I am not going to take any action with regard to Mr. Motley at this time. I am telling you that I take a very dim view of lawyers who try their cases in the media. I believe I have been privileged to see some of the greatest trial lawyers this country has produced and none of the really good ones try their case in the media. They have the ability, the talent, professionalism, and the ethics to try their case here in the courtroom.

I expect everyone, and I have read all the papers, plaintiffs and defendants, any activity in this area I expect to stop as of this moment. If there is any further activity, I will entertain any application. Be the professionals that you are. Don't sully your profession before this court.

I expect everything from this moment forward to be done in that professional manner. I mean this very sincerely and I hope you will take it in that way. If you choose to go in a different direction after this caution, I assure you I will deal with it. I hope nothing further need be said on this subject. There is no requirement for anyone to respond. I have tried to choose my words very carefully. And unless SOUTHERN DISTRICT REPORTERS, P.C.

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 somebody cannot comprehend my simple words, that is the end of the subject unless cause requires us to revisit the subject, and I hope that that will never occur.

I am now going to ask you to direct your attention to the issues raised in proposed case management order No. 2. I have identified certain issues set forth in the proposal that I would like the parties to address. On each issue I will hear first from the plaintiff and then from the defendant.

First, in paragraph 12, the parties set forth their separate position on setting a time limit for the service of foreign defendants. I would ask, unless someone feels compelled to be heard, that I would hope that plaintiffs would select one or another to address this issue and I would hope in the future that that policy will be followed in all of our conferences. I don't know that the defendants have formed a committee to be united enough to address the other side, but on behalf of the plaintiffs, who would address the question?

MR. MOTLEY: Your Honor, we met prior to the hearing, and while lots of people worked on this case management order No. 2, we are asking Ms. Bierstein to present the plaintiffs' position.

THE COURT: Ms. Bierstein. Am I pronouncing your name correctly, by the way?

MS. BIERSTEIN: It is Bierstein.

THE COURT: With a B?

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